

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Seth Ostrow (Reg. No. 37,410) on February 19, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. Cancel claim 3.
3. In the claims:
4. Claim 1 delete lines 3-5, insert therefor -- retrieving data items associated with a respective ranking from a database, wherein the ranking is based at least in part on a relevance score for the data item;--
5. Claim 1, line ⁷~~8~~, insert the term "the" before the term "respective".
6. Claim 5, line 1, delete "claim 3", insert therefor, --claim 1--
7. Claim 8, delete lines 3-5, insert therefor -- retrieving data items associated with a respective ranking from a database, wherein the ranking is based at least in part on a relevance score for the data item;--
8. Claim 8, line ⁶~~7~~ insert "the" before the term "respective".
9. Claim 8, line ¹⁵~~16~~, after "the search term query;" enter --and--
10. Claim 8, line ¹⁶~~17~~, insert --providing one or more of the result data items to a user.--

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11. Claim 11, delete lines ^{4 5}~~8-8~~, insert therefor-- an indexer which receives the data items associated with a respective ranking, wherein the ranking is based at least in part on a relevance score for the data item, produces a primary index;--

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12. Claim 11, line ⁷~~10~~, insert --the-- before the term "respective".

13. Claim 13, delete lines 3-4, insert therefore --an indexer which receives the data items associated with a respective ranking, wherein the ranking is based at least in part on a relevance score for the data item, produces a primary index;--

14. Claim 13, line 6, insert --the-- before the term "respective".

15. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

16. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention individually or in combination wherein the "producing at least a first and a second sub-index from the primary index based on the mapping", the "mapping...based on the respective rankings of the data items", and "the ranking is based...on a relevance score for the data item" as set forth in claim 1, and similarly in claims 8, 11, and 13.

17. Dependent claims 2, 4, 5-7, 9, 10, and 14-19 being further limiting to the independent claim 1, 8, 11, or 13, definite, and enabled by the specification are also allowed.

18. The closest prior art, Burrow et al., describes a method for mapping an index of a database into an array of files. However, Burrow et al. does not teach or suggest the limitation of